Rutgers Theological Seminary. March 7th 1836.

Dear Brethren.

You are perhaps surprized at our long silence. We will therefore commence by explaining our seeming neglect. The reason why we have not written is this - that no answer has been received by us to a former communication sent to you. We have been informed however that an answer was written and despatched, which must by some accident have miscarried or been mislaid, as it never reached us. We gladly avail ourselves of any information which will permit us again to address. We regret exceedingly that any circumstances should have occurred to interrupt our correspondence and we trust that in future there will be frequent interchanges of tokens of kind feeling and christian love. Although from the vicinity of our local situations, it is hardly to be expected that either should have access to very important sources of religious information, which are not within the reach of the other, yet we are sure that our mutual epistles cannot be altogether profitless. Did they answer no other end than to give assurances of our affection for each other, this alone would be a sufficient reason why they should not be despised. But we hope they will have the effect also to animate us in the labor in which we are engaged; in some little degree to quicken our zeal and strengthen our love; and to encourage our hearts by the confidence they inspire of each other's sympathy and cooperation. We are all looking forward to the same high honor, - we are all enlisted under the glorious banner of Love. It is therefore becoming that we should neglect no means for promoting mutual regard, and for securing as far as possible, united action.

With regard to the state of religion in our church and among ourselves, we

have nothing new to offer. We are happy to state, however, that there is at present in our seminary some thing of what is commonly called a missionary spirit: though we are hardly willing to admit this spirit to be a thing so entirely distinct and different from that which should animate every person who looks forward to the ministry, as many have represented it. We have all we trust, consecrated ourselves unreservedly to the service of God, to be employed in the sole object of promoting his glory in the salvation of men, and we are therefore bound to go wherever we can best promote this end. We know no distinction of places. The field is the world, and we conceive all religious spirit to be missionary spirit. We mean however, by the expression, that there are some of our number whose feelings are more especially enlisted in behalf of the perishing heathen. A few have determined to take their lives in their hands, and in the strength of the Lord to go forth to proclaim the unsearchable riches of christ, to the millions who have never heard the sound of the Gospel; and others we trust are humbly enquiring at the throne of Grace what God will have them to do in this matter. — Four of the brethren who have gone out from our Seminary, have been in company with Mr Abeel, attending medical lectures at New York during the winter preparatory to their departure for heathen lands. They expect to sail about the first of June, for Java or some adjacent islands. We are sorry to inform you that the state of Mr Abeel's health is such as to render his return to the East at present exceedingly doubtful. We know you will join with us in lamenting such an event, but we remember that all things are under the control of Him who will assuredly watch over the interests of his own kingdom in the world. —

With these few remarks we take our leave of you. Our object in writing has been chiefly to recommence the correspondence which has been unfortunately dropped. We do hope and confidently believe, that you will hereafter give us the pleasure of frequent communications from you. We beg you in conclusion to receive the assurance of our affection for you as individuals, and for the institution with which you are connected.

Yours in the bonds of the Gospel. — W. J. Poolman } Cor Secys of
Edw Reed } Soc of Inquiry.

To the Soc. of Inq. of the
Princeton Theological Sem.y

Rec'd March 10th 1836

Sec. of the Society of Inquiry,

Theological Seminary.

Princeton—